

# “Citizen Legislative Advocacy in Minority Communities” U.S. Mentors Delegation Visit in Europe November 24 — December 15 2012

*Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of the Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges, Professional Fellows Division*

*November  
2012*



PROFESSIONAL  
FELLOWS

**GREAT LAKES CONSORTIUM for International Training and Development (GLC)** — GLC is a collaborative effort of the Bowling Green State University, Lourdes University, The University of Toledo, and WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc - Contract Agent and Manager. Established in 1999.

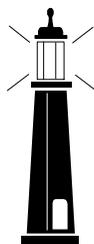
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*The Great Lakes Consortium* – through WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc. – as Contract Agent and Manager – received a grant for a two-way exchange between September 2011 and May 2013 from the U.S. Department of State for the “Citizen Legislative Advocacy in Minority Communities”.

*The overall goal of this exchange* is to provide a professional development opportunity for up-and-coming and mid-level professionals to gain knowledge of U.S. practices in engaging citizens and community leaders in collaboration to inform changes in legislation that make a difference in minority communities (including Roma, disabled, homeless, immigrant populations) and strengthen democracy.

*In 2012 two delegations with a total of 16 fellows in each from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia* visited the U.S. from March 26 – May 5, 2012 and from October 1-November 10, 2012. They were exposed to diverse community organizing methods how to engage citizens as active participants in solving problems in their own communities. European fellows participated in the U.S. in group seminars, round-table discussions, site visits, and had interactions community organizers and leaders. A *3-week internship* with mentoring, multicultural events, and participation in volunteer activities as well as in the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C. were also included in the 6-week professional fellows program. Participants did prepare a 6-9 month individual and group Action Plan for follow on activities. They had various opportunities to experience the American family life and the diversity in

the U.S. through staying with American host families during their internship in many states and communities across the U.S. They gained hands-on experience at both public and civil society institutions in the U.S. and a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture and people.

*The first delegation of nine U.S. Mentors traveled* for a reciprocal visit to Europe between July 8-29, 2012, and the 2nd U.S. Mentors group will travel to Europe from November 24-December 15, 2012. *A third U.S. Mentor group with 8 participants will travel to Europe* from January 25-February 15, 2013. The U.S. participants of this exchange will have an opportunity to share professional expertise and gain a deeper understanding of the societies, cultures and people of other countries. They will participate in workshops, seminars organized by the alumni of this program and contribute with presentations, discussions and mentoring. They will also visit public and civil society organizations working with the alumni in implementing projects in minority communities and provide them on-site consultations. We hope that community organizing will start and will have success stories in many communities by 2013.

This citizen civic exchange will promote mutual understanding, create long-term professional ties, enhance the collaboration between GLC and its overseas partners: : CEGA in Bulgaria, Civil College Foundation in Hungary, CeRe in Romania and Center for Community Organizing in Slovakia as well as many U.S. and European partner organizations. Thank you very much for your assistance and support!

## Adam Keck Youngstown, Ohio

E-mail: [adam@mvorganizing.org](mailto:adam@mvorganizing.org)

Adam Keck is the lead organizer of Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative. He grew up in northeastern Ohio where his family's history is deeply ingrained in the boom and bust of the Mahoning Valley's industrial economy: his great-grandfather was a coal miner, his grandfather ran a steel shop in Youngstown, Ohio and his father saved for college by working summers at Republic Steel.

Mr. Keck considers any advantage that he has had in life a result of the hard work his family put into the rich industrial history of the Valley and envisions a future in which it



will return to economic stability and prosperity.

A graduate of Jackson-Milton High School, Mr. Keck attended Brown University, where he graduated with a concentration in Literatures and Cultures of English and a focus in Multicultural Studies. While at Brown, Adam became deeply in-

terested in political and urban studies, which led him to volunteer on the 2008 Presidential Campaign for Barack Obama through the Organizing Fellows program.

Adam worked out of the Youngstown headquarters, registering voters, knocking on doors in neighborhoods throughout the city, and building the leadership that the campaign would rely on. His experience in the disinvested neighborhoods of Youngstown led him to seek the opportunity to organize around issues of importance for Valley residents.

Mr. Keck joined MVOC in June 2009 and currently serves as Lead Organizer, where he manages organizing staff and builds organizational strategy with organizers and top level leadership.

**Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative (MVOC)** was founded in 2008. MVOC is an innovative community organization that brings together neighborhood, faith-based and labor groups in Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana counties. In four years, MVOC has built a vibrant base of individuals and institutions, relationship with over 110 neighborhood

groups, faith institutions, labor unions, and nonprofit agencies - all joined in the common goal of creating sustainable, positive change in the neighborhoods and community.

MVOC does community organizing through several methods, including training and developing leaders, teaching strategies to build or rebuild networks of relationships, and assisting

institutions to look outward and use creative strategies for community engagement. Additionally, MVOC organizes institutions to have a collective voice in the decision making process to tackle social justice issues such as reducing concentrated poverty, improving the quality of life in the Mahoning Valley, and fighting racism and inequities based upon where one lives.

## Jennifer Hadlock New York, New York

E-mail: [Jennifer@cvhaction.org](mailto:Jennifer@cvhaction.org)

Jennifer Hadlock became the Welfare and Workforce Organizer for Community Voices Heard in December 2009. She has over ten years of organizing experience in Hartford, Connecticut starting in neighborhood organizing of tenants and youth, and later organized around welfare and drug policy.



Jennifer is proud to have worked on a campaign to win a Community

Center for the neighborhood where she worked and to have helped start an organization. Ms. Hadlock also has experience organizing in the violence against women movement, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Ms. Hadlock has a psychology degree from Washington University in Saint Louis and JD/MSW from University of Connecticut.

In her spare time Jennifer goes to visit and Skype's with her seven nieces and nephews

**Community Voices Heard (CVH) New York** created in 1997 is an organization of low-income people, predominantly women with experience on welfare, working to build power in New York City and State to improve the lives of our families and communities. CVH is working to accomplish this through a multi-pronged strategy, including public education, grassroots

organizing, leadership development, training low-income people about their rights, political education, civic engagement and direct-action issue campaigns.

CVH are currently working on welfare reform, job creation, public housing and other economic justice issues that affect low-income people, particularly low-income women of color.

While they focus on welfare reform, they broadly define welfare activism to be multi-issue, and thus must include issues such as education, training, jobs, housing, economic development and other community issues. They fill a crucial gap in that, as CVH connects public policy with grassroots organizing and leadership development.

**Louis Goseland**  
**Wichita, Kansas**  
E-mail: [Louis@sunfloweract.org](mailto:Louis@sunfloweract.org)



As Director of Organizing at Sunflower, Louis Goseland is the youngest on staff, working with organizers to coordinate each campaign area and leading the campaign on fair lending issues. His responsibilities reflect his dedication (since secondary school) to organizing and empowering his community.

Mr. Goseland states: “From an early age, I was exposed to the power of organized people. My mother was a long time member of the Communications Workers of America, my

grandmother is a long-time activist for the rights of women, and my father is a radical in every sense of the word. With this upbringing, I grew up understanding that all people have inherent worth, exhibited and defended through collective action.”

In high school, Mr. Goseland threw himself at any opportunity to organize his fellow students and quickly found himself immersed in the local activist community.

Mr. Goseland founded the West High chapter of Students United and after years of training and action, Louis became an SCA staff member, committed to the mission of grassroots community organizing.

And Louis won't stop: he is dedicated to making the promise of American democracy a reality—whether the campaign he is working on serves students, immigrants, workers, or a just economy.

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**Sunflower Community Action (SFCA)** is a Kansas-wide, non-profit, grassroots organization. The core of guiding principles based on that everyone should have human rights, including food, shelter, medical care, education, and a job; families should

be respected and supported; power should serve the people it affects. Every person count, and all people are entitled to participate fully in civic life.

The company mission is to unite and empower people to achieve jus-

tice and equality for all, changing lives by developing grassroots leaders who identify problems and seek lasting solutions.

Sunflower members build power by taking action and holding decision-makers accountable.

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**Rachid Elabed**  
**Dearborn, Michigan**  
Email: [relabed@accesscommunity.org](mailto:relabed@accesscommunity.org)



Rachid Elabed is currently working at ACCESS, a nonprofit organization in Dearborn, Michigan, organizing the Arab American community around key issues affecting them.

Serving as the Advocacy & Civic Engagement Specialist, Mr. Elabed consistently leads successful grassroots advocacy and nonpartisan voter engagement campaigns. Some of his work includes organizing around ra-

cial profiling of Arab and Muslims, advocating for comprehensive immigration reform, and registering thousands of new voters.

Mr. Elabed is looking forward to the opportunity to learn from the experiences of colleagues across the globe, particularly in the areas of community building and organizing, and youth engagement. He is also looking forward to expanding his network through shared experiences and travel.

Mr. Elabed was born and raised in Detroit, MI, and comes from a family of 14 siblings. He is currently working on his Masters degree in Social work. On his free time he loves working out and playing any kind of sports.

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**ACCESS/National Network for Arab American Communities Dearborn, MI** began operating in 1971. ACCESS is dedicated to empowering and enabling individuals, families, and communities to lead informed, productive, culturally sensitive and fulfilling lives. ACCESS has been serving the community for more than 40 years. Started by a group of volunteers out of a store-

front in Dearborn's impoverished south end, ACCESS was created to assist the Arab immigrant population adapt to life in the United States. Today, ACCESS is the largest Arab American human services nonprofit in the United States.

With eight locations and more than 100 programs serving metro Detroit, ACCESS offers a wide range of services to a diverse population.

ACCESS continues to honor its Arab American heritage while serving as a nonprofit model of excellence – an organization dedicated to community-building, focused on service to those in need, an advocate for cultural and social entrepreneurship, and the values of community service, health, education and philanthropy. ACCESS strength rests with the strength of the community.

## Martha Valadez

Detroit, Michigan

Email:

martha.valadez@tubmanorganizing.org

Ms. Valadez is a community organizer at the Harriet Tubman Center in Detroit.

Ms. Valadez was born and raised in Rialto, California, about 40 minutes east of Los Angeles. Her passion for community organizing developed from her early days in Stockton, California. There she became very active in social justice work through her involvement with MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano@ Aztlan) which rooted her in organizing with fellow passionate Chicano@ folks working to connect college students at the University of the Pacific on critical issues in the Stockton com-



munity. Her passion for animal rights and environmental justice also drive her work and are also a result of her time spent in Stockton.

In 2010 Ms. Valadez arrived in Ann Arbor, Michigan to study and develop her skills as a community organizer among many other talented graduate students pursuing their Master's degree in Social Work.

As a Washtenaw County resident, she began to work with youth and adults in the immigrant rights movement. Her role as a co-facilitator in a therapy group for children experiencing trauma due to the draconian immigration policies of our time, motivated her to take action and engage with the Latino community to demand justice!

Ms Valadez worked with many wonderful graduate social work students to develop the DREAM mentoring program for undocumented youth who were demanding support as they struggled in their pursuit for higher education.

Martha still holds an active role in this community, and is a committed full time organizer for YOUTH VOICE and Our Kids Come First in Southwest Detroit.

### Harriet Tubman Center (HTC) Detroit, MI

was started in 2007. The mission of the HTC is to be a recruitment and training center for new organizers. Organized individuals can collectively improve the quality of life in their community. Through their work in faith communities, neighborhoods, on college campuses and in workplaces, intern organizers of the HTC recruit leaders to build the power of communities to

create positive change. Harriet Tubman Center offers paid internships to individuals with a desire and capacity to work in diverse communities as prepared and competent organizers.

The Center believes in mentorship and a broad range of organizing experiences for young organizers. The Center believes that community organizing can be a fulfilling career, and their goal is to help open doors to this critical profession.

By bringing together young and experienced organizers and leaders for solidarity and continuing education events, they also seek to create a supportive network developing and achieving personal and professional goals.

Tubman Center is on a path to become a statewide collective focused on building statewide power to change the rules in Michigan in favor of low and moderate-income people.

## THANK YOU TO OUR COUNTRY DIRECTORS FOR ORGANIZING THIS PROGRAM FOR THE U.S. MENTORS VISIT IN EUROPE:



Emil Metodiev,  
*CEGA, Bulgaria*

Mate Varga,  
*Civil College Foundation, Hungary*

Nicoleta Chirita,  
*CeRe, Romania*

Veronika Strelcova and Chuck Hirt,  
*Center for Community Organizing, Slovakia*

# ITINERARY \*

## Friday, November 23, 2012

Departure from the U.S. to Budapest, Hungary

## Saturday, November 24, 2012

### Budapest, Hungary

**9:20AM:** Louis Goseland arrival in Budapest. Welcome and pick-up by Elizabeth Balint

**11:30AM:** Arrival the other 4 U.S. mentors. Welcome and pick-up by Elizabeth Balint

Check-in to hotel for 2 nights

**5:00PM:** Meeting with Mate Varga, Country Director for Hungary and review of the Hungarian program & dinner

## Sunday, November 25, 2012

### Budapest, Hungary

**Morning:** Sightseeing

**Afternoon:** Hungarian ALL Alumni meeting with alumni from 1st and 2nd delegations & workshop preparation

**Evening:** Welcome party

## Monday, November 26, 2012

### Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

**9:00AM:** Departure from Budapest and drive to Banska Bystrica  
**12:30PM:** Check-in in to hotel for 3 nights in Banska Bystrica

**1:00PM:** Welcome lunch in the hotel restaurant

**2:00-3:00PM:** Departure from the Hotel to the Center for Community Organizing /CKO/ office; Introduction in the CKO office; Tour of BB city center

**4:00PM:** (Optional)

Departure to Turcianske Teplice (spa town surrounded by Velka Fatra Mountains)

**5:00-6:50PM:** Time to enjoy Spa and Aquapark

**7:30PM:** Dinner in traditional restaurant Koliba

**9:00PM:** Arrival back to hotel and

time to relax

## Tuesday, November 27, 2012

### Zvolen & Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

**8:00AM:** Breakfast in the hotel

**9:30AM:** Departure to city Zvolen

**10:00AM:** Introduction to the work of Initiative Zvolen-Zapad in the office in the neighborhood

**Meeting with:** Sanja Nikolov, Community Organizer

**10:30AM:** Site visits of success playground, dogs arena

**11:00AM:** Cooperation with local Primary School. Story of the Square of Youth, meet Lubica Tomcikova, Director of the School

**12:00Noon:** Lunch in neighborhood and return to BB

**2:00PM:** Meeting in Banska Bystrica and discussion on Roma Issues: "The bureaucratic constraints and their practice in the real life of Roma community"

**Meeting with alumni:** Martin Miček from the Kotva Social Housing and Jolana Naterova, Hope for Children NGO

**4:00PM:** Visit the Community Center in Neighborhood Sasova

**Discussion topics:** the history & development, activities

**Meeting with:** Martin Husarik and Veronika Strelcova, program managers of the Community Center Sasova

**6:30PM:** Dinner in Cult Club

**8:00PM:** (Optional) Cultural Program in Banska Bystrica:

## Wednesday, November 28, 2012

### Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

**8:00AM:** Breakfast in the hotel

**9:00-9:30AM:** Pre-workshop meeting at the workshop location

**10:30AM:** Workshop on the "Community organizing practices in the U.S. and Slovakia"

- Welcome and Introduction by Veronika Strelcova, Country Coordinator for the exchange

- Overview of the exchange programs by Elizabeth Balint, GLC Project Manager

**11:30AM:** Community Organizing I by Chuck Hirt, Founder of CKO

**12:30PM:** Lunch break

**11:30PM:** The examples of Community Organizing in U.S. Practice; The examples of Community Organizing in Slovak Practice

**2:30PM:** Community Organizing II led by Chuck Hirt

**Discussion topics:**

- How do I use Community Organizing in my work?

- How could I use Community Organizing in my work?

**4:00-4:45PM:** Interviews of the applicants for the 2013 exchange and ranking of the applicants

**5:30PM:** Dinner in Barbakan

**7:00PM:** (Optional) Cultural program in Banska Bystrica; Dance Performance of the Dance Studio Too close for Come Back

## Thursday, November 29, 2012

### Kosice, Slovakia

**8:00AM:** Breakfast in the hotel

**8:30AM-12:30PM:** Departure from Banska Bystrica and drive to Kosice, eastern Slovakia

**12:30PM:** Lunch and overview of the program with Milena Kacmarcikova, alumna and organizer of the Kosice program. Check-in to hotel for one night

**1:30PM:** Seminar with leaders of community centers at ETP Slovakia about community organizing in the U.S. and discussion on the role of community centers and possible involvement in community organizing in the Eastern Slovakia

\* Itinerary as of November 24, 2012 — subject to change without further notice

# ITINERARY \*

*Introduction of the U.S. delegation by alumni:* Milena Kacmarcikova and Marcela Beresova  
**4:00PM:** Sightseeing in downtown Kosice; Dinner in Mlyn

## **Friday, November 30, 2012**

### **Moldava & Bodvou, Slovakia** **Bodvalenke & Miskolctapolca, Hungary**

**7:30AM:** Breakfast at the hotel  
**8:30AM:** Departure from Kosice to Moldava & Bodvou  
**9:00AM:** Visit to ETP community center in the Roma ghetto Budulovska – provision of comprehensive service to marginalized Roma  
**10:30AM:** Depart to Bodvalenke, Hungary  
**12:00Noon** Lunch & meeting & tour of the village. Discussion on community development through art & tourism in a Roma village of 200 inhabitants  
**2:00PM:** Travel to Miskolctapolca And check-in to hotel for 1 night  
**3:30PM-6:00PM** (Optional) Enjoy the Cave Spa  
**7:00PM:** Dinner with Krisztina Molnar, alumna and organizer of the Miskolc program. Miskolc workshop preparation.

## **Saturday, December 1, 2012**

### **Miskolc, Hungary**

**7:30AM:** Breakfast in the hotel  
**8:30AM:** Travel to Miskolc  
**9:00AM-1:00PM:** Workshop with minority leaders interested in community organizing. Introduction of the U.S. delegation & Experience gained in the U.S. by Krisztina Molnar, Discussion on U.S. community organizing practices and opportunities in Hungary  
**1:30PM:** Departure to Budapest and check in to hotel for 2 nights  
**Afternoon & evening:** Time is open for rest and/or sightseeing

on your own

## **Sunday, December 2, 2012**

### **Budapest, Hungary**

Open for sightseeing in and around Budapest with alumni & friends

## **Monday, December 3, 2012**

### **Travel day**

**Morning:** Check-out from hotel and go to airport  
**Group A:** Jennifer Hadlock, Martha Valadez and Rachid Elabed - travel to Romania  
**3:45PM:** Depart to Bucharest; Arrival at **6:25PM**  
**Group B:** Adam Keck and Louis Goseland - travel to Bulgaria  
**11:20AM:** Depart to Sofia; Arrival at **5:50PM**

**See separate itinerary for Romania & Bulgaria December 3 – 7, 2012**

## **Friday, December 7, 2012**

### **Travel back to Budapest**

**Arrival at Budapest airport**  
**3:14PM:** Group B  
**6:05PM:** Group A  
Check-in to the hotel for 3 nights

## **Saturday, December 8, 2012**

### **Budapest, Hungary**

**9:00AM-4:00PM:** Community organizing workshop at the Hungarian Institute for Culture (I. Corvin ter 8. at the Batthyany Metro station)  
**4:00-5:00PM** Interviews of applicants of 2013 exchange

## **Sunday, December 9, 2012**

### **Budapest, Hungary**

**9:00AM-12:00PM** Meeting with Roma university students at Romaversitas Open University and discussion on youth organizing  
**Afternoon:** Sightseeing in Budapest

## **Monday, December 10, 2012**

### **Szeged, Hungary**

**8:00AM:** Travel to Szeged; check-in to hotel for 3 nights  
**11:00AM:** Meeting with Zsolt Fugg, alumni and organizer of the Szeged program for workshop planning & lunch  
Sightseeing in downtown Szeged  
Afternoon (Optional) volunteer work to assist in packing Christmas gifts from Toledo, Ohio to the needy children in Szeged and Csongrad County.  
Dinner & meeting with Szeged friends

## **Tuesday, December 11, 2012**

### **Szeged, Hungary**

**11:00AM-4:00PM:** One day workshop on youth organizing and working with immigrants

## **Wednesday, December 12, 2012**

### **Timisoara, Romania**

**9:00AM:** Travel to Timisoara  
**11:00AM:** Visit the rich and the poor Roma neighborhoods & lunch with Anda Lupusor, alumni  
**2:00-5:00PM:** Meeting with local leaders and discussion on possible community organizing in Roma communities  
**6:00 PM:** Return to Szeged hotel

## **Thursday, December 13, 2012**

### **Szeged / Budapest**

**9:00AM-1:00PM:** Site visits; lunch in Szeged  
**Afternoon:** travel to Budapest and check-in to hotel for 2 nights

## **Friday, December 14, 2012**

### **Budapest, Hungary**

**10:00AM:** Site visit Antipoverty Network & Evaluation  
**7:00PM:** Farewell Dinner

## **Saturday, December 15, 2012**

Departure back the U.S.

# ITINERARY \*

## Schedule for GROUP A: ROMANIA

**Monday, December 3, 2012**

Bucharest

**6:25PM:** Arrival at the airport. Welcome and pick-up by Lavinia Chiburte, alumna

**7:30PM:** Check-in at the hotel for 4 nights

**8:00PM:** Dinner in the city center

**Tuesday, December 4, 2012**

Bucharest

**8:00-9:00AM:** Breakfast at the hotel

**10:00-11:30AM:** Meeting at CeRe/NACAB offices with Nicoleta Chirita, Country Director for Romania and alumni: Lavinia and Ana Maria Suciu

*Discussion topics:*

- Welcome, introduction and plans for the 3 days

- Presentation of CeRe and NACAB work

- Brief presentation of the U.S. organizations

**11:30AM-1:00PM:** Meeting with representatives from the Work Department/ DGAS – for Jennifer; and NGO leaders

**1:00-2:30PM:** Lunch

**2:30-6:30PM:** Workshop on Youth Organizing

**7:00PM:** Dinner

**Wednesday, December 5, 2012**

Bucharest

**8:00-9:00AM:** Breakfast at the hotel

**9:30AM-5:00PM:** “Community Organizing Practices from the U.S. and community organizing in Romania” workshop for applicants of the 2013 exchange program and other interested people, and leaders from local community organizing groups.

Agenda includes alumni presentations on different aspects of community organizing:

– ABC on community organizing

– Leadership & Fundraising (Andreea Buzec);

– Fracking (self governance, democracy, concerned citizens - Vlad Catuna, Nicu Dumitru);

– Direct action and social media (Radu Raileanu and Nicu Dumitru);

– Homeless and minorities (Mihaela Grigoriu);

Discussion on challenges in implementing the U.S. techniques and tools in CO in Romania.

**4:00-5:00PM:** Interviews of the applicants for 2013 exchange

**5:00-5:30PM:** Workshop evaluation & ranking of applicants

**7:00PM:** Group dinner with the alumni of the 1st and 2nd inbound delegations.

**Thursday, December 6, 2012**

Bucharest

**8:00-9:00AM:** Breakfast at the hotel

**10:00AM-1:00PM:** Meetings with local NGOs/ site visit in one of the CO neighborhoods

**1:00-2:30PM:** Lunch

**2:30-7:00PM:** Sightseeing, visit at the Peasant Museum/Village Museum, shopping, etc.

**7:30-9:00PM:** Farewell dinner in City center

**Friday, December 7, 2012**

Bucharest / Budapest

**8:00-9:00AM:** Breakfast at the hotel

**10:30-11:30AM:** (Tentative) Debriefing meeting at the U.S. Embassy with the U.S. mentors and alumni

**12:30PM** Check-in at the airport

**2:25PM:** Departure to Budapest

\* Itinerary as of November 24, 2012 — subject to change without further notice



THANK YOU TO

David Gustafson,

*The U.S. State Department Program Officer,*

*and our partners at the U.S. Embassies  
in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia!*



# ITINERARY \*

## Schedule for GROUP B: BULGARIA

**Monday, December 3, 2012**

Sofia

**5:50PM:** Arrival Sofia – pick up by Emil Metodiev and check in for 4 nights at the hotel.

**7:00PM:** Dinner in the town with alumni

**Tuesday, December 4, 2012**

Stara Zagora

**8:00AM:** Travel to Stara Zagora

**11:00AM:** Workshop with students of Social Work, Special Ed-Teachers and parents of Special Ed Children at Trakia University  
*Topic:* Introduction of Community Organizing in the U.S. and possibilities for implementation in Bulgaria.

*Presentations by:*

- The GLC alumni Kaloyan Damyanov, Nedka Taneva, and Emil Metodiev about their U.S. experience
- The U.S. Mentors and sharing success stories from community organizing
- Planning what to do in Bulgaria: Identifying issues, target groups

and leadership development to work with children of special needs & minorities involving teachers, parents in community organizing.

- Discussion on how to organize a demonstration and campaign; negotiation and fundraising in the U.S.

**5:00PM:** Travel back to Sofia

**Wednesday, December 5, 2012**

Sofia

**10:00AM:** Attending the National Roma Youth Network's Workshop on the International Day of Volunteers.

*Meeting with:* Roma youngsters participated in Summer Camps organized by ARETE Youth Foundation and Miglena Yordanova

*Discussion on youth organizing:*

- How to work at local level
- How to realize activities, actions and plans
- How to network with others from around the country

**12:00Noon:** Lunch

**2:00-6:00PM:** Site visits; Consulting

**6:30-7:00PM:** Dinner

**Evening:** (Optional) with the Youth either at disco or salsa party

**Thursday, December 6, 2012**

Sofia

**10:00AM:** Meeting in CEGA's office – to learn about CEGA activities and involvement in minority programs

**11:00AM-2:00PM:** Workshop with applicants of the 2013 exchanges and Sofia alumni of 2012 exchanges;

**2:00-3:00PM:** Interviews with the applicants

**3:00-3:30PM:** Ranking of the applicants

**3:45PM:** Sightseeing

**Friday, December 7, 2012**

Travel day

**9:00AM:** Breakfast meeting with Emil Metodiev. Planning of future activities, evaluation of Bulgaria. Program

**11:40AM:** Check-in at airport

**1:40PM:** Departure from Sofia, travel to Budapest, Hungary.

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THANK YOU TO ALL

OUR PARTNERS IN EUROPE AND IN THE U.S.A  
FOR SUPPORTING US AND WORKING  
WITH THE GREAT LAKES CONSORTIUM  
ON THIS INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS!